

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SIG-03 MMO-01 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 OES-07 HA-05 DLOS-09

SNM-05 SOE-02 DOE-11 /130 W

-----085411 122139Z /63

R 110135Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2662

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 1836

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

REF: STATE 291277

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: BARRING AN UNLIKELY CATAclysm, THE PRESENT CONSERVATIVE COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM FRASER CAN BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN POWER FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO YEARS, GIVEN ITS WALKAWAY AT THE DECEMBER POLLS FROM THE LARGELY DISARRAYED AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY. WE WOULD EXPECT MAINTENANCE OF PRESENT AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL POLICIES, INCLUDING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION AS THE GOVERNMENT'S NUMBER ONE GOAL. TOWARDS THE END OF THE TWO YEAR PERIOD OF NECESSITY AN EXPANSIONIST ECONOMIC POLICY MAY BE CAUTIOUSLY AND TENTATIVELY INTRODUCED TO ATTEMPT TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT ABOVE ITS DISASTROUSLY LOW PRESENT LEVELS. LABOR BASHING (OR AT LEAST A FIRM ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNION DISRUPTION) WILL REMAIN A MAINSTAY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED BY LABOR IN THIS PERIOD OF STAGNANT ECONOMY AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

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2. IN FOREIGN POLICY PROTECTIONSPOLICIES, SHORTRUN POLITICAL NECESSITIES BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY, WILL COMPETE WITH AUSTRALIA'S POLITICAL NECESSITY TO BE SEEN TO BE FORTHCOMING TO ASEAN DEMANDS FOR ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN MARKETS. PROTECTIONISM WILL, WE FEAR, TEND TO WIN OVER THE SHORT RUN.

3. RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN ALMOST UNTROUBLED WITH ONLY MINOR IRRITANTS SUCH AS THOSE AFFECTING VOLUNTARY MEAT IMPORT PROGRAMS, U.S. TARIFFS ON AUSTRALIAN WOOL, SOME MOVEMENT ON BANNED KANGAROO HIDE IMPORTS AS KANGAROOS ARE NO LONGER (AS UNILATERALLY DECLARED BY THE U.S.) CONSIDERED A THREATENED SPECIES. ON LAW OF THE SEA, ANTARCTIC MATTERS, AND MULTILATERAL EVENTS AFFECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, SOUTHERN AFRIAC AND THE LIKE, WE EXPECT AUSTRALIA AND THE U.S. TO SEE GENERALLY ALONG THE SAME PATH.

4. AS TO DEFENSE COOPERATION, THERE CAN BE EXPECTED CONTINUING RELIANCE ON ANZUS, A GENERAL MUTUALITY OF INTEREST IN POLICIES AFFECTING THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IN CONTINUED JOINT MANEUVERS, A SHARING OF THE SURVEILLANCE LOAD OVER OCEANS AND AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN ACQUIRING NEW NAVAL AND AVIATION HARDWARE, PROBABLY FROM THE U.S. OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS WILL AGAIN FACE TOUGH SLEDDING WHEN A 25-30 PERCENT AUSTRALIA SHARE IN PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE FOUND OUT OF BACKWARD AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL MILITARY COMPETENCE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE GOALS IN REFTTEL, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN BE IN LARGE MEASURE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE RESOURCES WE HAVE. I AM SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE IMPROVED THE CLOSE CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WE ENJOY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND AM PLEASED AT INDICATIONS WE HAVE HAD FROM

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BOTH WASHINGTON AND FROM THE RECENT INSPECTION THAT THE EMBASSY'S RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING ANALYTIC REPORTING, HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY SINCE MY ARRIVAL AND THAT OF MY NEW DCM. I ALSO GATHER FROM REMARKS MADE TO ME HERE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS PLEASED WITH WHAT APPEARS TO THEM A PERCEPTIBLY GREATER EFFORT BY BOTH THIS EMBASSY AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE THE LEVEL AND QUANTITY OF CONSULTATIONS. WE, 8, 574., ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT CANBERRA IS CONSULTED IN ADVANCE ON ALL IMPORTANT INITIATIVES THAT MAY AFFECT THE USG-GOA RELATIONSHIP; THIS WILL REQUIRE AN EXTRA EFFORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PART TO MAKE SURE WE IN CANBERRA KNOW OF SUCH INITIATIVES IN TIME TO DO THE APPROPRIATE. ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION/SAFEGUARDS MATTERS OUR DIALOGUES HAVE BEEN COMPLETE, ENLIGHTENING AND, I BELIEVE, FRUITFUL. WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES TO BOTH CONSERVATIVE AND LABOR ELEMENTS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICS, AND I BELIEVE THE PROOF THAT WE ARE EFFECTIVELY DOING SO IS FOUND IN THE ESSENTIAL ACCURACY OF OUR REPORTING ON THE DECEMBER ELECTIONS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LABOR UNION MOVEMENT.

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R 110135Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2663

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 1836

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

6. WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, NPW VISITS  
HAVE FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES BECOME "ROUTINE", AS DEMON-  
STRATED BY THE VISIT OF THE SSN "QUEENFISH" TO MELBOURNE  
THIS WEEK. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: WE HAVE AGREEMENT OF THE  
GOA TO OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO RADIATION MONITORING,  
AND ON THE TERMS WE WANTED (50 METRES FROM THE HULL).  
END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ALL JOINT DEFENSE  
FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE BEEN RECONFIRMED WITHIN THE  
PAST 9 MONTHS EITHER BY RENEWAL, UPDATING, OR ADJUSTMENT  
OF FORMAL U-AUSTALIAN AGREEMENTS. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN  
COLLECTIVELY, ON SO SOUND A LEGAL FOOTING SINCE THEIR  
INITIATION. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: RECENT,  
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT STEPS, HAVE BEEN TAKEN WHICH SHOULD  
INCREASE THE FLOW OF AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE TO THE U.S.  
AS PART OF OUR SHARED INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS, THUS SIGNIF-  
ICANTLY ALTERING THE PREVAILING VIRTUAL ONE-WAY FLOW  
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. END CONFIDENTIAL.

7. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: I MUST LIKEWISE STATE THE STRONG  
COMMITMENT OF THIS EMBASSY TO THE REMAINING GOALS OF ECONOMIC  
AND COMMERCIAL AMELIORATION, MULTILATERAL COOPERATION WITH  
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AUSTRALIAN ON LAW OF THE SEA, HUMAN RIGHTS, SUPPORT FOR U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES, ENCOURAGEMENT FOR AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN INFCE (THEY ARE IN), MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND THE LIKE. OMEGA AND THE SOLAR OPTICAL NETWORK FACILITY CONSTRUCTION ARE FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS AT THIS DATE, AND OUR PROGRAM SEEMS WELL UNDER WAY TO SUCCESS.

8. A WORD ABOUT RESOURCES WE INTEND TO USE. BY REALIGNING THE ACCENT IN OUR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL ASSETS, BOTH IN CANBERRA AND THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC REPORTING, WHERE BOTH WE AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS FELT WE WERE LACKING, WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR CONTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM WHICH IN OUR OPINION HAD BECOME TOO MECHANISTIC. ADDITIONALLY WE HAVE THE LARGELY HERETOFORE UNTAPPED RESOURCES IN OUR CONSULATES AND CONSULATES GENEAL WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO INCREASE POLITICAL REPORTING BOTH AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND AT THE CENTER. WE WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR HAVE A FULLY FUNCTIONING LABOR ATTACHE, WHICH WILL FILL AN IMPORTANT GAP IN OUR COVERAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SCENE. FINALLY WITH GREATLY SHARPENED AND INTERGRATED ASSISTANCE FROM OUR NEW USIS TEAM WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE OUR INFORMATINAL EFFORTS ON THOSE AREAS WHICH ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO US, BY INCREASING THE USE MADE IN AUSTRALIA OF RETURNING AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AND IV GRANTEES AS SPECIALISTS ON THE U.S. SCENE, BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE U.S. HAS A USEFUL ROLE IN THE NARCOTICS PREVENTION AND ENERGY RESEARCH TEAM, AND BY CLOSER INTEGRATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE EMBSSY, WHETHER STATE, USIS, DOD OR AGRICULATURAL, UNDER MY DIRECTION.

ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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